

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Claims 11-14, 16-19, 21-23, 25-27, 29-32 and 34-37 are pending. Claims 1-10, 15, 20, 24, 28 and 33 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. By this Amendment, Claims 11 and 29 have been amended to more particularly recite certain features of Applicants' invention as discussed below.

In the Office Action, Claims 11-14, 16-19, 21-23, 25-27, 29-32 and 34-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,070,006 to Iriuchijima et al. ("Iriuchijima"). Without acceding to the outstanding rejection, Claims 11 and 29 have been amended to more particularly recite certain distinctive features of Applicant's invention.

In particular, independent Claim 11 now recites, *inter alia*, making an independent copy of an entire tree of the class, said independent copy of the entire tree of the class forming a second entire tree of the class so that two independent trees of the class are provided, and storing the independent copy of the entire tree of the class. Independent Claim 29 now recites, *inter alia*, means for making an independent copy of an entire tree of the class, said independent copy of the entire tree of the class forming a second entire tree of the class so that two independent trees of the class are provided, and storing the independent copy of the entire tree of the class. It is apparent that Iriuchijima does not teach or suggest at least these features of Claims 11 and 29.

For example, the disclosure of Iriuchijima relied upon in the Office Action teaches that the inheritance of the copy is cancelled by adding attributes and

operations of the parent class. Thus, in Iriuchijima, the “entire tree of the class” (the tree of inheritance) is cancelled. In particular, Iriuchijima teaches:

“In FIG. 9, the parent class ‘Title’ has the inheritance relation with child classes ‘DocTitle’ and ‘RtrvTitle’, and the parent class ‘Title’ has elements common to the child classes ‘DocTitle’ and ‘RtrvTitle’. In addition, the parent class ‘Title’, which is the whole class, has the aggregation relation with the partial class KeyWord’.”

Iriuchijima, col. 8, lines 53-58.

Thus, it is apparent that Iriuchijima does not teach or suggest making an independent copy of an entire tree of the class, said independent copy of the entire tree of the class forming a second entire tree of the class so that two independent trees of the class are provided, and storing the independent copy of the entire tree of the class, as recited in Claims 11 and 29.

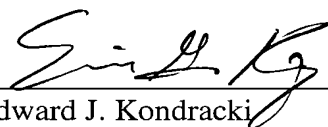
For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 11 and 29, and their respective dependents, distinguish patentably from the applied references.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A prompt Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (T2147-906522) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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